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Stated Meeting, January 18, 1889.

Present, 21 members.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Mr. Arthur Biddle, a lately elected member, was presented to the Chair and took his seat.

Correspondence was submitted as follows, viz.:

A circular requesting the attention of the Society in behalf of the Philhellenic Society, Amsterdam, Holland.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Hungarian Academy, Budapest (127); Naturforschende Gesellschaft des Osterlandes, Altenburg (122–127).

Letters of envoy were received from the Bureau des Longitudes, Paris; U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington D. C.

A letter from the President of the Society stating that he had appointed Mr. Craig Biddle to prepare an obituary of the late Casper Wistar, M.D., and that the appointment had been accepted.

A letter requesting exchanges was read from the Aachener Geschichtsverein, which was granted, and the Society ordered to receive Proceedings from No. 96.

Accessions to the Library were announced from the Royal Asiatic Society, North China Branch, Shanghai; Government Observatory, Madras; Hungarian Academy, Budapest; K. Nordeske Oldskrift-Selskaf, Copenhagen; Anthropologische Gesellschaft, Wien; Naturforschende Gesellschaft des Osterlandes, Altenburg; Deutsche Geologische Gesellschaft, Messrs. R. Friedländer & Sohn, Redaktion "Naturwissenschaftliche Wochenschrift," Berlin; Société des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles, Académie N. des Sciences, Bordeaux; Société Zoölogique de France, Société de Geographie, Ecole des Mines, Bureau des Longitudes, Paris; Société des Antiquaires de la Morinie, Saint-Omer; Philosophical Society, Cambridge, Eng.; Royal Society, R. Meteorological Society, Editor of the "Geological Magazine," London; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, Mass.; Publisher of "The Travellers' Record," Hartford; Entomological Society, Brooklyn; Historical Society, American Chemical Society, Mrs. J. W. Barrow, New York; Mr. Charles W. Darling, Utica; College of Pharmacy, Franklin Institute, Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., Philadelphia; Prof. Ira Remsen, Baltimore; U. S. Geological Survey, U. S. National Museum, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Mr. James P. Kimball, Washington, D. C.; Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society, Raleigh; State Board of Health, Nashville; University of California, Sacramento; Observatorio Meteorológico-Magnético-Central, Mexico.

The Committee on the *Codex Poinsett* reported progress, and was continued.

The Committee on Prof. Cope's paper was continued.

The stated business of the evening was then taken up, and

an election for Librarian being held, Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., was unanimously re-elected to that position.

On motion, the President was authorized to appoint at his leisure the Standing Committees of the Society, which were subsequently reported by him as follows:

Finance.

Henry Winsor, William B. Rogers, Phillip C. Garrett.

Publication.

Daniel G. Brinton, George H. Horn, Samuel Wagner, Patterson DuBois, Horace Jayne.

Hall.

J. Sergeant Price, William A. Ingham, Charles A. Oliver.

Library.

Edwin J. Houston, William V. McKean, Wm. John Potts, Jesse Y. Burk, William H. Greene.

Mr. William Blasius read a paper, "Is the Signal Service Degenerating?" and subsequently made some oral remarks on subjects connected with meteorology in general.

Dr. Morris offered a suggestion as to the probable equivalent in our modern English speech of the ancient Hebrew word—Amen. Sometimes such equivalents may be found in terms that are marked in our dictionaries as obsolete, or provincial, or in terms now in use only among the lower and more ignorant classes. Thus he had on one occasion been much struck by the description given by an unlettered negro, of a certain pain as a "gugawing" one. We can, in this case, easily trace the origin, as of a dog gnawing at a bone. So, in rendering our assent to a proposition forcibly, we often, to-day, do so with a nod of the head and the utterance of a sound better represented by the letters m'h'n, than by any other. Is not this then to be regarded as the modern representative of this form of earnest solemn assertion?

The Committee on the Communication of Prof. Goodfellow

and the Resolution of Prof. Lesley in relation to the U. S. Coast Survey, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The American Philosophical Society having a deep interest in scientific investigation, has heretofore taken occasion to express its opinion as to the propriety of the appointment of scientific men for high scientific positions;

AND WHEREAS, The American Philosophical Society recognizes the advisability of appointing as Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey a man of the highest ability, experience and character, be it therefore,

Resolved, That this Society regards Richard Meade Bache as one fulfilling all these requirements; that his training on the Survey for a period of nearly forty years, his familiarity with its methods and history, his general knowledge and scientific culture, would make the appointment an eminently fit one, and would assure to the work the maintenance of that high standard of usefulness to the people and to the Government which it reached under the distinguished administrations of Alexander Dallas Bache and Benjamin Peirce.

Resolved, That this Society recommend the said Richard Meade Bache as in every way qualified for the Superintendency of the Survey.

Resolved, That a Committee of three members of this Society be appointed to proceed to Washington and lay there these resolutions before the President.

The President of the Society and Messrs. Dudley and Haupt were appointed the Committee referred to in the resolution.

And the Society was adjourned by the President.

Stated Meeting, February 1, 1889.

Present, 16 members.

Vice-President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

A letter from the Marchese Antonio de Gregorio (Palermo), accepting membership.

A circular from the Society for the Promotion of the Study of Modern Greek, Leyden, Netherlands.